ATCHAFALAYA BASIN

RESEARCH AND PROMOTION BOARD

Louisiana State Museum

617 North 3rd Street

BATON ROUGE, LA

Wednesday, November 9, 2011

Minutes of Meeting

BOARD MEMBERS:

Atchafalaya Levee Board Gerald Alexander (chairman)

Department of Agriculture & Forestry Brad Spicer

Department of Culture, Rec. & Tourism Stuart Johnson

Department of Environmental Quality Alex Appeaning

Department of Health & Hospitals David Guilbeau (absent)

Office of the Governor (Coastal Activities) Charles Sutcliffe for Chip Kline

State Land Office John Lavin

Department of Wildlife & Fisheries Mike Wood

NON-VOTING BOARD MEMBERS:

Assumption Parish representative Marty Triche (Absent)

Iberville Parish representative John Clark for Mitch Ourso (Absent)

St. Martin Parish representative Guy Cormier (Absent)

St. Mary Parish representative Paul Naquin

OTHERS PRESENT:

Department of Natural Resources Staff Steve Chustz

Charles Reulet

 David Fruge

Thomas Van Biersel

Dana Naquin

House of Representatives Su King

1. Call to Order, Roll Call: The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairman Gerald Alexander and a roll call determined there was a quorum present.
2. Agenda approval or amendment to the agenda by 2/3 votes: The Vice-Chairman called for any amendment or discussion of the agenda. There being none, the Vice-Chairman asked for a motion to approve the agenda.

Motion was made by Robert Benoit and seconded by Mike Wood to approve the agenda. The Vice-Chairman called for the vote and approval of the agenda passed unanimously.

1. Approval of Minutes of July 21, 2011 Meeting: The Vice-Chairman reminded the Board that they had previously received the minutes of the last meeting electronically and called for any corrections or changes to the prior meeting minutes. There being none, the Vice-Chairman called for a motion to approve the minutes of July 21, 2011.

Motion was made by John Lavin and seconded by Robert Benoit to approve the minutes. The Vice-Chairman called for the vote and approval of the minutes passed unanimously.

1. Election of Research & Promotion Board Chairman: Robert Benoit nominated Gerald Alexander to be the chairman of the Research & Promotion Board. Robert Benoit also motioned to appoint Dr. Alex Appeaning as vice chairman of the Research & Promotion Board. The motion was seconded by Stuart Johnson. A vote was called and the board unanimously passed the motion.

1. Overview of FY2013 Draft annual Basin Plan: Steve Chustz presented an overview of the FY2013 draft Annual Basin Plan, and announced new meeting dates for Public Meetings:

Morgan City – 11/14/11

Plaquemine – 11-16-11

St. Martinville – 11-17-11

Directed members to page 22 & 23 to view listing of 10 projects nominated, 2 proposed for funding by TAG:

1. Bristow Bayou
2. American Pass Bathymetry Data collection

Also included EGL in plan and Big Bayou Pigeon, Little Bayou Pigeon and Brown Bayou for construction funding. Mr. Chustz directed members to Page 24 for the list of proposed access projects. The launch at the Atchafalaya River @ Butte La Rose moved forward last year. The remaining 4 access projects from the previous year moved up, moved Eagle Point Park off due to land owner issues, included Habitat Restoration for projects with Scouts or mitigation. Robert Benoit noted that legislatures are aware that Eagle Point Park is project is not moving forward. Steve Chustz – if ABP FY2013 Plan is approved by Research and Promotion Board to move forward, public meetings will be held next week. Steve will present public comments to the board at next meeting before presenting plan to CPRA.

1. Public Comment on Draft FY2013 Annual Basin Plan: There was no public comment.
2. Research & Promotion Board Consideration of Draft FY2013 Annual Basin Plan. Brad Spicer motioned to approve ABP FY2013 Annual Plan, seconded by Alex Appeaning, the chairman called for a vote and motion approved unanimously.
3. Proposed Timeline for FY2013 Annual Plan: Steve review the timeline, R&P will meet in November or early December to approve final plan, Dana will send out query today on dates that work best for group, CPRA meets December 7. We will have public comments and Annual Plan ready to present at this meeting, Research & Promoting Board will meet at the end of January and ABP FY2013 Annual Plan will be mailed to each legislature 30 days prior to the beginning of the 2012 Legislative session which begins March 12.
4. Overview of Water Management Project Nomination Process Changes Proposed by Technical Advisory Group (TAG): Steve Chustz informed the Board that the TAG passed a motion to change nomination process. TAG believes that the current timeframe does not allow them enough time to adequately evaluate projects. TAG passed motion to open up nomination at public meetings held in November through June 1. This schedule provides a 6 month nomination period.
5. Public Comment on Proposed Water Management Project Nomination Process Changes: Chairman called for questions and comments. No questions or comments from board or public.

1. Research & Promotion Board Consideration of Water Management Project Nomination Process: Motion by Stuart Johnson, seconded by Brad Spicer. A vote was called and the board unanimously passed the motion to begin acceptance of project nominations beginning with the November 2011 public meetings and continuing until June 1, 2012.
2. Other Business: Gerald Alexander inquired about the 16” & 21” Canal. Steve Chustz said the 21” is still a possibility but 16” is dead from a land owner perspective. 21” has state land and school board land right inside and may have enough to open to improve flow, still pursuing and researching. Charles Reulet and David Fruge with DNR are working with Yvonne Allen on the satellite imagery. Paul Naquin inquired about parish president being a voting member. Robert Benoit let Paul know that discussions on this matter will begin with Representative Karen St. Germain, Robert Benoit and Steve Chustz can facilitate a meeting with Representative St. Germain.
3. Public Comment: There was no public comment.
4. Adjourn: The chairman asked if there were no other questions or comments, he would call for a motion to adjourn. Motion by Brad Spicer and seconded by Mike Wood and the meeting was adjourned.

 Dana Naquin, Atchafalaya Basin Program